

M.E.S.

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When March comes around and it is time for another News Letter, we know that the school year is practically over. Soon it will be Easter, then examinations and before we know it the closing festivities will be upon us. This year we are attempting something a little different in the way of demonstrations and are having ours on the stage of the Eaton Auditorium, Eaton's College Street store. The theme of the demonstration will be "That we may serve" and the dance, gymnastic and sports numbers will all be built around this. It will be held the evening of May 22nd, and an admission fee of 50 cents will be charged. All seats are to be reserved. We hope, with the help of the graduates, to sell out the house and incidentally make a tidy sum for the war work of the school and Alumnae. The graduation exercises will be held on Friday afternoon, May 23rd in The Margaret Eaton Hall.

Much has happened since the last News Letter was sent to you, both in work and in play. The seniors this year have had a course in Spanish Dancing given by Miss Elisa Lopez. They got castanets from the Drummers Paradise and were beginning to be quite proficient in handling them when the course was over. Those who wanted it took a series of lectures on Riding given by Mr. Jack Hope and nearly every Saturday morning they went riding out at the Old Mill Riding Club. The students are also having golf instruction in the gymnasium twice a week and it is quite interesting to watch them putting and driving from cocomats or gymnasium mats, with cotton balls.

After the mid-year examinations regular weekly assemblies were resumed, in charge alternately of the staff and a student committee. A series of talks on women and girls in war work was given. There was one by Miss Mabel Blackley, General Secretary of the Vancouver Y.W.C.A. on the Association and war work; one by Miss Read, Principal of Branksome Hall, on war work in a private school; and the third by Bessie Pitt on the work of the Eaton Girls' Club War Auxiliary. At another very interesting Assembly, we had as our guest-speaker, Miss Florence Glenn, who spoke on folk songs of Canada and illustrated her talk by singing French Canadian songs, songs of the Maritimes and those of the British Columbia Indians. For the latter she accompanied herself on Indian drums. Some of the graduates in Literature and Expression will remember Miss Glenn as a former student in that department. She has since made a name for herself in London and Paris in the field of folk music and the programme she gave us that morning proved her to be a real artist. Miss Thrall was also a very welcome guest at this Assembly. Last week the Music Club under the direction of Mrs. McNeill, gave a very instructive and enjoyable programme. Mrs. McNeill not only traced the development of the song from early to modern times, but sang for us many examples of the different periods. Other numbers were given by the Music Club who receive weekly training from Mrs. McNeill. The last regular Assembly for the year was held on Friday when Mrs. Walton, World Ladies' Badminton champion with three others, gave an exhibition of mixed doubles and later played with some of the students.

Both school and Alumnae are trying to accomplish something as groups in the line of war work. For the Alumnae, Frances White is the chairman of the whole committee with several sub-chairmen working under her. Louise Proctor Hooper is in charge of recreation particularly for guests from overseas, and she has Peggy Pringle Burnet and Anne Ross Thompson helping her. At present there is a group of mothers at Deer Park Church and another at the Church of the Redeemer to whom they give folk dances and games. Members of the Alumnae meet each Friday at the school to sew for the Red Cross and are busy making dresses for British War victims. Anne Thompson looks after this and would welcome more helpers we feel sure. If you cannot come, perhaps

you would like to knit. Helen Parsons is responsible for the knitting and has wool from the Red Cross for you. Isabel Callan Macdonald is head of the social and finance committee and as such is looking after the arrangements for the Square Dance Party to be held March 29th in the hope that some money can be raised to buy materials.

Both the School and the Alumnae are interested in doing something to help physical education teachers in Britain, and Miss Somers has written to Miss Stafford of the Ling Association to see what might be done. The Physical Education Committee of the Alumnae Association have managed the Refresher Courses so well that they have a little nest-egg left, and have given for the war work of the Association a cheque for £150.00. It is understood that \$100.00 of this will be kept for helping British physical education teachers.

The students have made a considerable contribution by their willingness to help entertain the men of the different services, chiefly through the Y.M.C.A. and the Heliconian Club. They are convening the Air Force Dance for the Y.M.C.A. next week and recently several of them went to Camp Borden to give an exhibition of Fencing and Tap Dancing. They are also knitting, collecting good, used clothing, tin foil, felt hats, etc., and current magazines for the soldiers, and are buying war savings stamps. The stamps are on sale at the school office and our objective is to sell \$200.00 worth by the end of May.

Many of you who are teaching will have received before this the form for the Survey of Physical Education in Canada. This Survey has been undertaken this year by the Legislative Council of the Canadian Physical Education Association, the need for it having been felt for a number of years previously.

If a majority of the people in our profession answer the form the results should be very interesting and illuminating. An attempt will be made to do anything possible to raise the standards of physical education, the necessity for which may be shown by the answers of the Survey. We hope that each of you who receives a form will fill it out and return it promptly.

Florence A. Somers

The members of the Dance Club are getting together a number of modern creative dances composed by different dance classes. They are having them mimeographed and are selling them to this year's students, the proceeds to go for war work. There will be six dances as follows:

Christmas Carol  
Round  
Mischief (Children's Dance)  
Waltz  
Dance in a Lyrical Vein  
Vivace (The last four with music)

There will be a few extra copies for any graduate who may want them. These may be obtained at 50 cents a copy from Miss Blanche Wellman at The Margaret Eaton School. (6 dances to each copy)

At the Counsellors' Camp Course held recently at The Margaret Eaton School under the auspices and direction of the Ontario Camping Association the students assisted one night in the Games hour, two nights with Projects, and every night with registration. Under Miss Somers' direction they also had charge of the "Games of Skill" booths at the Camp Fair.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

Frances McConnell '39 writes from the Brantford Y.W.C.A. about her Figure Skating classes. In addition to regular classes in this activity, she has started a mixed figure skating club which meets for a two-hour period each Friday evening with a membership of eighty. The figure skating season closed recently with a carnival put on by both classes and club at which they cleared \$150.00.

Jean Morrison '40 and the members of the Y.W.C.A. Guild who are her mainstay in the Moose Jaw "Y", put on a Fashion Parade last fall. The clothes modelled were provided by one of the main department stores while Jean and others connected with the "Y" did the modelling. Jean writes: "We held the Fashion Parade in the Orpheum Theatre, and the theatre made the following arrangements with us. We were to receive ten cents on every ticket sold, whether we sold it or whether it was sold at the box office. The theatre seats 500 people. We had a full house both nights and so made \$100.00 right there. We made \$45.00 on programmes (advertising) and only had \$10.00 worth of expenses, so we made \$135.00 clear profit. We were very pleased and so were our customers, because they not only had their regular theatre programme, they also had a good fashion show".

Helen Mackey '29, of the Montreal Y.W.C.A., recently put on a most successful Folk Dance Festival, the 4th annual. Groups from different foreign colonies in Montreal put on some of their own national dances. There were Ukrainians with a string band to accompany them who danced a Urechanyky, then a Katerena, and a Podolian Kozak dance and ended with a Cossack sword dance. The boys say it takes three months to get into condition and then three years to learn the dance and one can well believe them". All this is quoted from the Montreal paper *Helen* sent us. Indians from the Caughnawaga Reserve did ceremonial and warrior dances. There were Czechoslovakian dancers and Polish dancers and girls from the Greek colony. French-Canadians danced and girls from the "fun-in-games" class of the "Y" did an English Scandinavian dance. The festival received wide publicity in "La Patrie" with many pictures of the different dance groups.

Barbara Claxton Fisher '32, has been doing some interesting recreation work this winter at the Eastman Kodak Company's beautiful new recreation building in Mount Dennis. She has about seventy girls from the Kodak Company who take recreational gymnastics and badminton with her. One of the most successful classes at the Toronto Y.W.C.A. this year has been the course called "Tips for Teachers". Barbara has had about fifty teachers in the course at the West End "Y" who come at five o'clock for about twenty minutes of gymnastic exercises for their own good, followed by folk dances, games and relays to teach. Margaret Dunning at Central has started a similar class recently that is well attended.

Dorothy Jackson '27, as chairman of the Committee on Women's Athletics of the C.P.E.A. has just completed a survey of Basketball for girls in Canada. The following is the summary she has made of the returns:

Approximately 800 questionnaires sent out - returns 213.

Rules Used

- Women's - 53%  
Men's - 47% (modified)

|                             |                                |       |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| <u>Courts</u>               | - Small (under 60 ft.)         | - 10% |
|                             | Medium (60-80 ft.)             | - 66% |
|                             | Large (over 80 ft.)            | - 24% |
| <u>Court Markings</u>       | - Full court                   | - 28% |
|                             | Two-thirds                     | - 60% |
|                             | Half court                     | - 12% |
| <u>Medical Examinations</u> | - Required                     | - 57% |
| <u>Menstrual</u>            |                                |       |
| <u>Restrictions</u>         | - None                         | - 61% |
|                             | 2 days out                     | - 39% |
| <u>Officials</u>            | - Women                        | - 53% |
|                             | Men                            | - 27% |
|                             | Both                           | - 20% |
| <u>Questions</u>            | - In favour of rated officials | - 93% |
|                             | Willing to organize locally    | - 69% |
|                             | In favour of affiliation with  |       |
|                             | U.S.A.                         | - 88% |

Graduates interested in the Modern Dance may be glad to know that they may buy records of Modern Dance Rhythms. Miss Daisy Dunham, pianist of the Department of Physical Education for Women, University of California, Los Angeles, has had records made of her original rhythms for dancing, entitled "Rhythms for Educational Dance". These sell at \$5.50 per set.

Graduates in and around Toronto will be interested in the programme to be given in the physical education section of the Ontario Education Association at O. C. E. April 14th and 15th. Dona Smellie '23 is to teach a class in gymnastics on Monday at 9:30. At 11 o'clock there will be a panel discussion on the responsibility of the Physical Education Department for mental health in High School students, Speakers: Dr. J.D.H. Griffin and Dr. K. H. Rogers. Miss Iveyagh Munro, of the McGill School of Physical Education, speaks at 2 p.m. and at 3 o'clock Dorothy Jackson '27, is demonstrating the teaching of Badminton with some of our students. At the same time Miss Forster of the Physical Education staff of the University of Toronto is demonstrating gymnastics with students of the Diploma Course. On Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Arthur Carty of Northwestern High School Detroit, will teach Modern Dance as she teaches it to her students, and 2 p.m. there will be another panel discussion on the courses for teachers of Physical Education from the stand-point of content of courses, entrance qualifications and vocational guidance of our own students. Speakers: Dr. Ryerson of the University of Toronto, Miss Somers and Miss Munro. The programme closes with a class in Social Dancing taught by Phoebe Hamilton '39.

#### SOCIAL AND NEWS NOTES:

The Christmas Tea & Service held as usual the Sunday before the holidays, was both beautiful and inspiring. The little play, "Why the Chimes Rang" was a fine demonstration of what can be done dramatically in a small space with very little equipment.

The Alumnae Refresher Course was a great success this year in spite of the fact that it could be held only two and one-half days instead of the usual three. Miss Hillas was again the guest teacher from the States. This was a grand time, not only for work but for renewal of friendships and general visiting. On the Sunday after the course was over, the class of '37 entertained those at the Refresher Course from the classes of '38 and '39 at tea at Miss Somers' apartment.

After the mid-year examinations were over, the annual ski week-end was held, again at Limberlost. The weather was beautiful and the ski-ing perfect. There were two good instructors, one for beginners and one for advanced ski-ers, and altogether the girls had a great time while they were there.

The School Formal was held at the Granite Club on February 28th and was most successful. Miss Hamilton and Mr. and Mrs. R. Y. Eaton were there as patronesses and a number of the graduates attended including Ruth Whiteley, Isabel Callan Macdonald, Ann Bartlet, Elizabeth Bleakney, and Elspeth Wilson Emmet. The music was excellent and a touch of enjoyment was added by the floor show put on by Mr. Jack Lemen.

The seniors and staff were guests of the juniors at the Toronto Skating Club's Carnival on March 11th where they were thrilled by the colour and glamour in general, and afterwards at the Residence, where they were revived by coffee and doughnuts.

Instead of their last regular skating lesson the students recently gave an informal demonstration of their work in figure skating. This exhibition was an excellent example of the results that may be obtained through class method in teaching. The demonstration was under the direction of Eleanor Keyes '36.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Ernest McCulloch (Paddy Armstrong) in the death last November of her mother, Mrs. James Armstrong.

Friends of Molly Dallas Fess will sympathize with her in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Stuart Jackes, who died on December 24th. Molly is living in Sussex, N. B. where her husband is stationed.

We sympathize deeply with Florence Mews '29, and Alison Mews Jerrett in the death of their father, Mr. William J. Mews on December 29th.

Word has just come to us of the sudden death of Georgie Read's husband, Mr. Archibald MacDougall. Georgie's many friends will sympathize very much with her.

While we have considerable news of graduates, we are keeping it for the Special Graduates Number in June, and hope that between now and then you will send in other items of interest.

When the 'phone rings and a gentle voice says "This is so-and-so of the M.E.S. Alumnae", you say very quickly, "Why yes, I'll be delighted to sell tickets for the school demonstration!!!!" At any rate some day you will hear that voice, so be prepared to add one more thing to your war effort, and at the same time bring a little glory to M.E.S. by filling the house.

*Charlotte H. Layton*

P.S. The Square Dance Party was a great success. And is the War Work Committee wide awake! Before the Party was hardly started, they were addressing cards to the Toronto members asking them to come to the school Friday night to knit and sew. We understand these evening meetings are to be held regularly the first Friday of every month.



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